AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original) A self-locking carbon adsorbent comprising a carbon nanohorn aggregate provided with one or more openings in the wall part thereof, wherein a substance to be adsorbed passes through the opening in one limited direction from the outside to inside of the carbon nanohorn in isothermal or isobaric adsorption.

Claim 2 (Original) A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 1, wherein the substance to be adsorbed is gas which is put in a supercritical state at room temperature.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the substance to be adsorbed is methane gas and the methane gas is allowed to be adsorbed in a quasi-liquid state in the inside of the carbon nanohorn.

Claim 4 (Original) A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 3, wherein the methane gas adsorption ability V/Vs (where V represents the volume of gas to be adsorbed and Vs represents the volume of an adsorbent) is 150 or more at 303 K under a pressure of 3.5 MPa.

Claim 5 (New) A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 2, wherein the substance to be adsorbed is methane gas and the methane gas is allowed to be adsorbed in a quasi-liquid state in the inside of the carbon nanohorn.

Claim 6 (Original) A self-locking carbon adsorbent according to Claim 5, wherein the methane gas adsorption ability V/Vs (where V represents the volume of gas to be adsorbed and Vs represents the volume of an adsorbent) is 150 or more at 303 K under a pressure of 3.5 MPa.